

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Of:

JAMES L. SOPER

Application No. 09/047,070

Filed: March 24, 1998

Group Art Unit: 1722

Examiner: K. Nguyen

IMPROVED FOOD PATTY MOLDING
MACHINES

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Washington, D.C. 20231, this 22nd day of October, 1998.

Diane Johnson

Name

Diane Johnson 10/22/98
Signature Date

AMENDMENT

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 24, 1998, and includes a separate request for a one month extension of time, extending the time for response to October 24, 1998.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 7, line 13, after "mold", insert --plate--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

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GROUP 1506

1. (amended) An apparatus for operating a food product molding machine ^{of the} ~~type~~ having a feed ram device receiving ^a food product from a supply and transferring ^{said} food product into a mold cavity of a mold plate in a fill position, ^{wherein said} ~~which~~ mold plate is cycled in a linear reciprocal path defined by a return stroke to ^a ~~the~~ fill position and an opposite discharge stroke to a discharge position, a product discharge device operable while the mold plate is held for a discharge dwell time in the discharge position to remove the product from the mold cavity, and a plate shuttle supporting the mold plate for movement therewith along the linear mold path, the apparatus comprising: